



RECOMMENDED
 Short Film:
 Safer with Caution
 and Foresight
 PAGE 4

TOP STORY

Expanding social protection

European Council Recommendation to stimulate national debate and reforms

The European Council Recommendation on access to social protection for employees and the self-employed, initiated by the European Commission in 2018, is expected to be formally adopted by the middle of the year. Regardless of the type and the duration of the employment relationship, employees and self-employed persons should be given access to adequate social protection, including protection in the event of a workplace accident or occupational disease.

The social security systems in Europe are facing several challenges. The number of non-standard employment relationships is increasing, work is becoming more flexible, and traditional one-track career paths are becoming rarer. In 2017, the European Union laid the foundations for creating better working and living conditions in the EU with the European Pillar of Social Rights. This includes ensuring that people are adequately protected in the event of old age, illness, unemployment, workplace accidents and occupational diseases. The challenge is to close existing gaps in social security and increase the number of insured persons. The Council Recommendation is intended to drive this area forward and thus ensure that developments in the Member States move in the same positive direction. The aim is to prevent different forms of employment being abused and to avoid unfair competition.

‘The basic need for protection and security is an intrinsic human need. So, opening up access to social protection for more people is the right way forward’, said Professor Breuer, Director General of the DGUV. ‘However, achieving this is a balancing act, because the social security systems must also be financially sustainable and the specific configuration must remain in the hands of the Member States. Each country has different priorities and prerequisites that must be taken into account’, added Breuer. The issue has been on the agenda in Germany for some time now. Access to statutory health



Photo: Kzenon - stock.adobe.com

Protection against everyday risks such as old-age, illness, unemployment, work accidents and occupational diseases should be opened up to the self-employed.

insurance for self-employed persons became easier in 2019, and compulsory old age pension insurance is on the agenda for the current legislative period. The German Social Accident Insurance is currently discussing how the self-employed can be added to the statutory accident insurance system, so that they are covered in the event of an accident at work or occupational disease.

The Council Recommendation is expected to be formally adopted soon. Germany will agree to the Recommendation and Germany’s representative in the Council has been officially authorised to do this. The Recommendation is not legally binding.

Web: <https://ec.europa.eu>

› Search “access to social protection”

Web: www.bundestag.de

› Search “Drucksache 19/9292“ (German only)

FYI European Pillar of Social Rights

The European Pillar of Social Rights consists of 20 principles covering areas such as equal opportunity and labour market access, fair working conditions, social protection and social inclusion. The principles form the basis for European labour and social policy.



Europe in the spotlight

Dear Reader,

The 9th European parliamentary elections are coming up soon. In many respects, these elections will set the scene for the coming years – whether it be growing EU scepticism or Brexit. Naturally, the German Social Accident Insurance is keeping a close eye on developments in social policy. The Juncker Era started with the European Pillar of Social Rights being proclaimed in autumn 2017 and the White Paper on the future of Europe, including the debate on Europe's social dimension. In a short period of time, numerous proposals were put forward for social policy initiatives, such as the EU legislation on the coordination of social security systems, the upcoming Council Recommendation on social protection for employees and the self-employed, and the European Labour Authority. But there are also limitations to all these welcome developments. Although it's a definite 'yes' to joint action at European level, the fundamental division of competences and roles set out in the European Treaties must not be called into question. The organisation of social security is and must remain a key element of national sovereignty.

We will have to wait and see what the social policy agenda will look like after the elections. Current discussions on the future of Europe must be continued, and perhaps this is more important than ever.

Professor Joachim Breuer
Director General of the DGUV

'The key role of EU-OSHA will be further developed'

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) advocates a culture of risk prevention and works toward raising awareness of better working conditions in the EU. The Agency's commitment and well-established network not only benefits governments but also companies and their employees. This year, EU-OSHA celebrates its 25th anniversary. DGUV Kompakt spoke with the Director of EU-OSHA, Dr Christa Sedlatschek, about current challenges and future activities.

Dr Sedlatschek, why did a new legal basis for EU-OSHA come into force at the beginning of the year?

The new Founding Regulation adopted on 20 February 2019 confirms and even expands the key role EU-OSHA plays in improving health and safety at work in the European Union. In the future, new trends and developments in the world of work will be increasingly taken into account, without losing sight of traditional risks such as hazardous substances, physical burdens and psychosocial stress, especially when raising awareness or running campaigns.

The current EU-OSHA Healthy Workplaces Campaign deals with dangerous substances, this will be followed with work-related musculoskeletal disorders starting in 2020. How well can you reach individual companies with your message?

Most workplace accidents and occupational diseases still occur in micro, small and medium enterprises. These businesses account for more than half of the EU labour force. That makes them our most important target group. Over the last 25 years, EU-OSHA has established a network of partners

across Europe. This network allows us to provide relevant information and practical tools, such as the OiRa online tool, which help businesses conduct a risk assessment in an easy, cost-effective way.

A European survey of cancer risk factors in the workplace is planned for 2020. Which sectors are the main focus of the survey?

Exposure to cancer risk factors is one of the most common causes of occupational diseases and work-related deaths in the European Union and happens across many different industries. In 2020, EU-OSHA will start work on a computer-assisted telephone survey which will be conducted in 2022. A decision has yet to be made regarding which sectors to focus on. However, sector isn't the only variable which needs to be taken into account when carrying out this type of analysis. Other factors that also need to be considered include age, gender, education level, company size, type of employer and type of employment contract.

The world of work is in a state of flux – digitalisation is creating new forms of work, more flexible forms of employment, new places to work and new working time models. What can you do to help European countries in this time of change?

Digitalisation and the emerging occupational health and safety risks as a result of digitalisation are important focal points of EU-OSHA's research. The work done in our foresight projects is aimed at anticipating changes and identifying potential health and safety risks for employees be-

'The new Founding Regulation confirms and even expands the key role EU-OSHA plays in improving health and safety at work in the European Union.'

Dr Christa Sedlatschek



Photo: Via Storia

European ambassador for safety and health at work: the cartoon character Napo shows us where there are potential hazards in the workplace and gives helpful tips in a humorous, likeable way without speaking a word!

fore they arise. For example, the aim of our latest research study is to inform EU policymakers, governments, trade unions and employers on how digitalisation can affect the safety and health of EU workers in the medium and long term. We help shape appropriate health and safety research, policies and strategies. Nowadays, people are less likely to work in traditionally hazardous environments. However, work-related stress and ergonomic risks are increasing. Examples include platform work, crowd-work, increased telework, more work in service-oriented industries such as healthcare, the need to be available at all times and frequent job changes. Digitalisation and occupational safety will also be the focus of the Healthy Workplaces Campaign due to begin in 2023.

For many years, the cartoon character Napo has been informing us about occupational safety and health in a fun way. Both EU-OSHA and the DGUV are involved in the initiative. What's the secret of Napo's success?

Napo represents a typical employee in any sector, and of any age, who often finds himself in a difficult situation at work. He deals with health and safety issues in a humorous and easy-going manner. This makes him both charming and endearing, and you can easily identify with him. Napo explains risk

Photo: Georg Wilke



Dr Christa Sedlatschek
Director of EU-OSHA

‘EU-OSHA is very proud to be a member of the Napo Consortium and to work with the DGUV and other members to make workplaces in Europe safer, healthier and more productive.’

Dr Christa Sedlatschek

prevention in pictures and in easy-to-understand language. He encourages employees to play an active role when it comes to finding practical solutions. Over the years, he has become an ambassador for occupational safety and health. EU-OSHA is very proud to be a member of the Napo Consortium and to work with the DGUV and other members to make workplaces in Europe safer, healthier and more productive.

Mehr Informationen zu EU-OSHA unter

Web: <https://osha.europa.eu/de>

TOPIC

Turn-assist systems

On 26 March 2019, the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission provisionally agreed on new rules to improve road safety. These include mandatory turn-assist systems for buses and trucks. From 2022, all road users will be better protected against accidents.

Many people still lose their lives on European roads. According to the EU Commission, around 25,000 people were killed in road accidents in 2017 and 135,000 were seriously injured. Modern technology can help reduce the number of accidents.

In 2017, the Commission launched its first public consultation. The aim was to obtain feedback from stakeholders on possible improvements to current vehicle safety regulations. As part of the third phase of the ‘Europe on the Move’ set of measures, the Commission published proposals in May 2018 to revise the Vehicle General Safety Regulation and the Pedestrian Safety Regulation.

The provisional agreement provides for the introduction of turn-assist systems (vulnerable road user detection systems) for new models of buses and trucks weighing 3.5 tonnes or more from 2022 onwards and for all new buses and trucks from 2024 onwards. Starting in 2022, lane-keeping assistance, intelligent speed assistance and advanced emergency brake assistance will also be mandatory for passenger cars throughout the EU.

The DGUV welcomes the Commission's plans. Following the launch of the ‘Turn Assist Scheme’ in 2018, the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI) has been providing national incentives for haulage contractors and other truck fleets to invest in road safety. Since the beginning of 2019, there has also been a funding programme for the voluntary fitting or retrofitting of trucks and buses with turn-assist systems.

Web: www.ec.europa.eu

> Search ‘vulnerable road user detection systems’

Safer with caution and foresight



Minor moments of carelessness can lead to major accidents: screenshot from the short film 'Of course, I know about safety'.

Web: www.vdsi.de > Presse (German only)

Quickly checking your phone when you're in the middle of crossing the road, going through a red light, riding your bike with bad brakes, or getting behind the steering wheel when you're tired – these are the kind of seemingly minor moments of carelessness that can lead to major accidents. 'Of course, I know about safety' is what you often hear from the person afterwards. This is also the title of a tongue-in-cheek short film that premiered in Berlin in April. The Association for Safety, Health and Environmental Protection at Work (VDSI) film deals with commuting accidents, road accidents and workplace accidents. The film makes it clear that the same problems and solutions are found in all companies. The aim of the film is to get people to rethink how they do things by showing typical everyday situations in a funny way without any finger pointing.

Photo: VDSI

NEWS IN BRIEF

German Paralympic Media Award: record participation

At the end of March, the German Paralympic Media Award was presented for the 19th time. The German Social Accident Insurance awards the media prize to recognise outstanding media coverage of popular, rehabilitation and competitive sports for people with disabilities. The aim is to raise the general public's awareness of the topic of disability sport. 135 entries were submitted this year, a record number. Christian Brandt and Birgitta Kaßbeckert (Bayerisches Fernsehen) received the prize in the Film/Video category. For the first time there were multiple winners in the Print category: Marlo Mintel (Weser Kurier) together with Thomas Breves and Kathrin Kraft (Jeversches Wochenblatt). Moritz Cassalette (NDR) won in the Audio category. The prize for Online/Social Me-



Photo: Uli Gasper

The winning photo 'Mine!' was taken by Uli Gasper at the 2018 Wheelchair Basketball World Championships in Hamburg.

dia went to the MDR Paralympics Project Team 2018 and Sylvia Peuker. This year's Special Award went to Sir Philipp Craven, the former President of the International Paralympic Committee.

Web: www.dguv.de/gpma (German only)

New Look

The website for the 'Mental Health in the World of Work' (psyGA) project has a brand-new look. Managers, employees and specialists in occupational health management can easily research various topics and find practical advice and tips for their specific target group.

Web: www.psyga.info/english



IMPORTANT DATES

15 June 2019

18th Occupational Medicine Day
HAMBURG
www.dgaum.de

18 June 2019

Closing Conference INQA
Project 'Good shift work in healthy organisations'
DORTMUND
www.inqa.de/en

16 – 18 September 2019

Digital University:
New types of work –
New types of prevention
DRESDEN
www.dguv.de/e1179187

NUMBER OF THE MONTH

430

... people died in an accident at work in 2018. That's 21 fewer than in 2017.

Quelle: www.dguv.de/d25485

LEGAL INFORMATION

Published by: Deutsche Gesetzliche Unfallversicherung (DGUV), Dr Joachim Breuer (Director General). The DGUV is the umbrella association of the German Social Accident Insurance Institutions for the public sector and for trade and industry.

Publishing committee:

Dr Renate Colella (Chair), Udo Diel, Dominique Dressler, Professor Dr med Axel Ekkernkamp, Markus Hofmann, Gabriele Pappai, Dr Udo Schöpf, Karl-Sebastian Schulte

Editorship: Gregor Doecke, Kathrin Baltscheit, DGUV, Glinkastr. 40, 10117 Berlin

Editorial team: Kathrin Baltscheit, Diana Grupp, Claudia Kleist, Anne Schattmann

Translation: Peter Love

Layout: Christoph Schmid, www.christophschmid.com

Publisher: Quadriga Media Berlin GmbH, Werderscher Markt 13, 10117 Berlin

Printing: DCM Druckcenter Meckenheim

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

 @DGUVKompakt

News live from the editorial team:
www.twitter.com/DGUVKompakt

Contact

KOMPAKT@DGUV.DE
WWW.DGUV.DE/KOMPAKT